

**Weekly Weather
Crop Report**

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending August 6, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, August 6, 2006**. Although there were isolated showers reported across the state, many operations are still suffering from drought conditions. Corn and soybeans are beginning to be harvested. Insect pressure is increasing in scattered fields. There have been reports of operators having to cut their herds for the winter to compensate for the low hay yields this season. Soil moisture was rated 41 percent very short, 38 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	100	99	95	97	19	24	24	31	2
	Dent	92	87	77	85					
	Mature	68	37	17	35					
	Harvested	7	--	1	2					
	Silage Harvested	87	82	69	76					
Cotton	Squaring	100	100	100	100	11	21	27	34	7
	Setting Bolls	98	93	97	96					
	Open Bolls	5	1	--	2					
Rice	Heading	89	79	86	83	1	9	18	61	11
	Mature	4	--	1	4					
Sorghum	Heading	100	100	100	100	4	16	30	49	1
	Turning Color	97	86	78	77					
	Mature	73	--	11	19					
Soybeans	Blooming	100	100	100	99	15	23	30	29	3
	Setting Pods	98	96	96	92					
	Turning Color	60	37	18	22					
	Shedding Leaves	31	--	8	8					
	Harvested	10	--	--	1					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	72	70	77	73	27	29	20	21	3
Watermelons	Harvested	97	95	97	95	0	19	32	48	1
Blueberries						2	3	36	58	1
Peanuts						3	17	56	24	0
Sweetpotatoes						10	35	30	24	1
Cattle						17	22	30	28	3
Pasture						27	26	36	11	0

County Agent Comments

“Isolated rainfall has benefitted some fields but generally the area is drought stressed. Insect pressure in soybeans and cotton remains light.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“The dryland soybean harvest is well underway with yields being reported from 8 to 35 bushels per acre. Most reported yields are from 10 to 20 bushels per acre. Some corn has been harvested. Irrigation activities on cotton and soybeans continue at a steady pace.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Recent rains have perked up pastures and hay fields, but have also brought out the armyworms.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Conditions remain very dry. Soybeans are being harvested and corn harvests should start this week.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“Hay supplies will be very low this winter. Cattlemen face the decision of finding expensive alternative feed sources or selling down the herd size to match their hay supply. Dryland soybeans are being harvested and yields aren't going to cover the cost of production.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“The dry and hot conditions have taken a toll on all crops in some way. Corn is not filling out properly, some soybeans will be cut for hay, and cotton needs rain for boll development.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“It is hot and dry. Nothing has changed!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Dry conditions still exist over most of the county. It is the same story as last week; rain is needed.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“The drought continues with temperatures in the upper 90 degree range. The pasture and hay situation is critical. Growers will have to decide soon on how many mature cows they can winter. Fall rains are vitally important to germinate cool season grasses. Early weaned calves are beginning to be marketed.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“Hot and dry! Crops that are being harvested are reflecting the short moisture and heat. Yields are reported to be very low on crops harvested.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Isolated showers continue to help some localities, while other areas remain dry.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Drought conditions have badly reduced corn, soybean, cotton and hay yield prospects. A large area of the county received thunderstorms on Saturday night with rain amounts varying from one-half inch to three inches. For some areas of the county this is the only rain received since mid-May. Producers are actively hunting hay and hay substitutes and many are culling cattle to reduce demand. Many ponds have dried up.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Cotton fields are as varied as I have ever seen. There are some fields that look great, and then down the road fields look totally different. We will see what the final harvest tells us. The corn harvest is well underway, with yields varied. I hate to make a yield prediction. We will have to wait for final harvest results. Asian Soybean Rust has infected a field in Jefferson County. Keep a close eye on your beans and look for the rust symptoms.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Isolated thunderstorms brought drought relief to some areas of the county. More rain is needed. The corn harvest has begun. Yields will be disappointing this year compared to recent yields. Summer hay crops continue to be harvested but yields will be short this year.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“Much needed rains have fallen but we cannot play catch-up with our lost hay production. Cattle producers will have to have a solid feed and forage plan for this winter in order to survive. Row crops are doing fair with cotton on the poor side and peanuts doing better.”

— Mike Steede, George

“Crop and forage conditions have improved over the last two weeks due to afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Hay is, and will continue to be, in short supply.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“The county received scattered thunderstorms. Pastures are generally looking better; however army worm populations are reaching threshold levels in scattered hay fields and pastures. We need more rain on hay fields! Hay is very short to nonexistent! Producers are shopping for ryegrass seed prices.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Grazing conditions benefitted from scattered showers in the last week. It has allowed timber landowners to get essential work done in their timber stands. Cotton is thriving in the dry hot weather. Yet beef cattle producers are feeding hay or other feeds due to dry pastures.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“The blueberry harvest is completed. Isolated evening thunderstorms in some parts of the county have been welcome, and will help summer forages grow. However, as it stands now, most beef producers say they will be 60% short of their usual hay yields. Beef producers will prepare fields for winter forages.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Louisiana State University
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**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO
Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from July 31, 2006 to August 6, 2006 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	101	73	86	82	+4	0.00	-0.39	0	0.22				
Lambert	100	72	86			0.00	-0.70	0	1.15				
Tunica	98	71	86	81	+5	0.00	-0.61	0	0.14				
Extreme/Average	101	71	86	82	+4	0.00	-0.66	0	0.22				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	99	67	83	81	+2	0.74	-0.04	2	1.11				
Hickory Flat	99	66	83	80	+3	0.49	-0.38	1	1.20				
Independence	97	69	84	80	+4	0.07	-0.64	1	2.14				
Oxford	100	70	86	80	+6	0.36	-0.47	1	0.39				
Extreme/Average	100	66	84	80	+4	0.42	-0.37	1	2.14				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	100	71	85	80	+5	0.02	-0.78	1	0.85				
Iuka	95	65	81	78	+3	1.13	+0.20	3	2.15				
Ripley	99	68	83	79	+4	0.39	-0.38	2	1.24				
Tupelo						0.00		0	0.07				
Verona	100	58	84	81	+3	0.53	-0.24	2	1.13				
Extreme/Average	100	58	83	80	+3	0.52	-0.25	2	1.24				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	100	73	86	82	+4	0.00	-0.72	0	0.09				
Rolling Fork	101	70	86	82	+4	0.25	-0.46	1	0.80				
Stoneville	100	72	85	82	+3	0.00	-0.56	0	0.63				
Yazoo City	98	71	84	82	+2	0.50 E	-0.36	1	1.09 E				
Extreme/Average	101	70	85	83	+2	0.25	-0.49	1	0.09				
5. Central													
Canton	100	67	83	82	+1	0.32	-0.46	3	0.93				
Carthage	99	69	81	81	0	0.38 E	-0.53	3	2.93 E				
Eupora	100	68	84	80	+4	1.78	+1.05	2	2.03				
Lexington	101	67	81	80	+1	0.57	-0.14	2	1.99				
Extreme/Average	101	67	82	81	+1	0.45	-0.42	3	1.99				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	100	69	84	81	+3	0.41	-0.27	2	3.44				
Houston	101	64	83	79	+4	0.41	-0.29	1	0.48				
Philadelphia				81					2.00				
State University	101	68	84	81	+3	0.80	-0.03	1	3.36				
Extreme/Average	101	64	84	81	+3	0.61	-0.22	2	3.40				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	101	70	85	82	+3	2.06	+1.26	2	4.79				
Natchez	95	56	81	82	-1	0.35 E	-0.49	2	2.04 E				
Oakley	101	61	83	81	+2	0.45	-0.39	1	4.01				
Vicksburg	96	73	85			0.03		1	5.79				
Extreme/Average	101	56	83	81	+2	0.95	+0.03	2	3.42				
8. South-Central													
Collins	97	70	84	81	+3	1.25	+0.26	4	4.98				
Columbia	98	71	84	82	+2	0.35	-0.79	2	3.81				
Tylertown	95	69	83	81	+2	2.08	+0.86	2	5.02				
Extreme/Average	98	69	84	82	+2	0.80	-0.29	3					
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	94	68	82	82	0	2.87 E	+1.67	6	4.82 E				
Laurel	97	69	82	81	+1	5.42	+4.37	5	6.26				
Newton	99	66	82	81	+1	0.60	-0.36	3	2.99				
Extreme/Average	99	66	82	81	+1	2.96	+1.95	5	6.26				
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				83		0.40	-0.98	1	1.32				
Pascagoula 3 NE				81					0.00				
Picayune				82		0.90 E	-0.42	2	3.40 E				
Extreme/Average				82		0.90	-0.48	2					
State	101	56	83	81	+2	0.88	-0.02	2	2.68				

DFN = Departure from Normal.